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that at the siege of Ambracia by the Romans under Marius Fulvius Nobilior (B.C. 189) the Ætolians filled jars with feathers which they set on fire, blowing the smoke with bellows into the face of the Romans in the countermines. At the great naval battle fought in the waters of Ponza between Alfonso of Aragon and Genoa in 1435 the Genoese carried vessels filled with quicklime and red-hot cinders, the smoke from which was blown by the wind against the enemy. Leonardo da Vinci, who among his many other accomplishments was a notable military engineer, suggested the use of poisonous powders, such as yellow arsenic and verdigris, to be thrown from the topmasts of ships so as to choke the enemy. This formed a part of the war instructions given by Leonardo to the Republic of Venice in 1499, when the Turks had passed the Isonzo and threatened St. Mark's.

THE STUDENT'S ARMY CORPS

THE possibilities of organization in our educated democracy are shown by the arrangements which have been made to train students for the army in our colleges and universities. Over four hundred institutions have placed their faculties, buildings and equipment at the service of the government and in each of these a student's corps will be in training after the first of October. In the eight institutions for higher education in New York City, there may be some 20,000 men in training. If there are half so many in other institutions throughout the country there would be 500,000 recruits from whom will be selected candidates for officers' commissions and technical posts in the army.

THE War Department advises all young men, who were planning to go to college this fall, to do so. Each should go to the college of his choice, matriculate and enter as a regular student. He will have registered with his local board and opportunity

will be given for all the regularly-enrolled students to be inducted into the Students' Army Training Corps at the schools where they are in attendance. Thus the Corps will be organized by voluntary induction under the Selective Service Act, instead of by enlistment as previously contemplated. The War Department announces that the students become soldiers in the United States Army, uniformed, subject to military discipline and with the pay of a private. They will simultaneously be placed on full active duty and contracts will be made as soon as possible with the colleges for the housing, subsistence and instruction of the student soldiers.

The student-soldiers will be given military instruction under officers of the Army and will be kept under observation and test to determine their qualifications as officer-candidates, and technical experts such as engineers, chemists and doctors. After a certain period, each man will be selected according to their performance, and assigned to military duty in one of the following ways: (a) He may be transferred to a central officers' training camp. (b) He may be transferred to a non-commissioned officers' training school. (c) He may be assigned to the school where he is enrolled for further intensive work in a specified line for a limited specified time. (d) He may be assigned to the vocational training section of the corps for technician training of military value. (e) He may be transferred to a cantonment for duty with troops as a private.

Similar sorting and reassignment of the men will be made at periodical intervals, as the requirements of the service demand. It can not be now definitely stated how long a particular student will remain at college. This will depend on the requirements of the mobilization and the age group to which he belongs. In order to keep the unit at adequate strength, men will be admitted from secondary

schools or transferred from Depot Brigades as the need may require.

In view of the comparatively short time during which most of the student-soldiers will remain in college and the exacting military duties awaiting them, academic instruction must necessarily be modified along lines of direct military value. The War Department will prescribe or suggest such modifications. The schedule of purely military instruction will not preclude effective academic work. It will vary to some extent in accordance with the type of academic instruction, *e. g.*, will be less in a medical school than in a college of liberal arts. The primary purpose of the Students' Army Training Corps is to utilize the executive and teaching personnel and the physical equipment of the colleges to assist in the training of our new armies. This imposes great responsibilities on the colleges and at the same time creates an exceptional opportunity for service. The colleges are asked to devote the whole energy and educational power of the institution to the phases and lines of training desired by the government. The problem is a new one and calls for inventiveness and adaptability as well as that spirit of cooperation which the colleges have already so abundantly shown.

There will be both a collegiate section and vocational section of the Students' Army Training Corps. Young men of draft age of grammar school education will be given opportunity to enter the vocational section of the corps. At present about 27,500 men are called for this section each month. Application for voluntary induction into the vocational section should be made to the local board and an effort will be made to accommodate as many as possible of those who volunteer for this training. Men in the vocational section will be rated and tested by the standard Army methods and those who are found to possess the requisite

qualifications may be assigned to further training in the collegiate section.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Samuel Wendell Williston, professor of paleontology in the University of Chicago; of Maxime Bôcher, professor of mathematics in Harvard University; of Dr. Byron D. Halsted, professor of botany in Rutgers College; of F. P. Treadwell, an American by birth, professor of chemistry at Zürich, and of J. Kollmann, professor of anatomy at Basel.

It is officially announced that Yale University will receive, as residuary legatee of the late John W. Sterling, at least fifteen million dollars, which will nearly double the endowment of the university.

THE new National Museum has been closed to the public by the board of regents, as all available space in the building has been occupied by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. It is expected that the museum will be again opened when the new office building of the bureau, at Vermont Avenue and H Street, is completed. —A temporary exhibition was opened in a few of the galleries of the British Museum on August 1. The exhibition galleries were closed by order of the government as a measure of economy in the spring of 1916, and, owing to the necessity of increased precautions against air raids, all the most valuable objects have been removed to places of greater safety. The trustees, however, have deeply regretted the closing of their doors to visitors, and especially to soldiers from the overseas Dominions. An exhibition has accordingly been arranged, consisting chiefly of casts and facsimiles, which it is hoped will both be instructive in itself and representative of some parts of the treasures of the British Museum.